



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 06530.0144

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Michael S. BANIK et al.) **Notice of Allowance Dated: 11/04/04**
Application No.: 10/024,261)
Filed: December 21, 2001) Group Art Unit: 3731
For: STENTS, STENTING)
SYSTEMS, AND RELATED) Examiner: V. X. Nguyen
METHODS FOR AGENT)
DELIVERY) Confirmation No.: 5008

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

SUBMISSION OF REPLACEMENT DRAWINGS

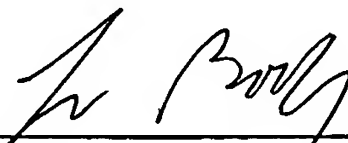
Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please replace the drawings in the above-identified application with the three formal drawing sheets filed herewith (Figures 1-7). If the replacement drawings for any reason are not in full compliance with the pertinent statutes and regulations, please so advise the undersigned.

If any fees are necessary for the submission of these formal drawings, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 3, 2005

By: 
Leslie I. Bookoff
Reg. No. 38,084



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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Notice of Allowance and statement of Reasons for Allowance mailed on November 4, 2004, and the Corrected Notice of Allowance and statement of Reasons for Allowance mailed on November 26, 2004. Without withdrawing allowed claims 1-8, 10-15, and 17-24 from issue, Applicants submit these comments.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that even though independent claims 1 and 10 have been deemed by the Examiner to be patentable over the cited prior art, dependent claims 9 and 16, which necessarily contain all of the limitations of the base claims from which they depend, have been cancelled because they allegedly are drawn to another embodiment of the claimed invention. While the Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's assertions and conclusions, they nevertheless

submit the required fees and allow the application to proceed to issue, in order to expedite prosecution of this case.

In addition, the Examiner made characterizations and assertions about the claims and the related prior art in the statement of Reasons for Allowance. Although Applicants agree with the Examiner's ultimate conclusions that the claims are patentable, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's statement and the characterizations and assertions contained in that statement.

Furthermore, it is understood that the Examiner's characterizations were for purposes of referring to the prior art, and do not in any way imply that the claims are limited by words not actually present in the claims. Therefore, unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization contained in the Notices of Allowance and their accompanying Reasons for Allowance.

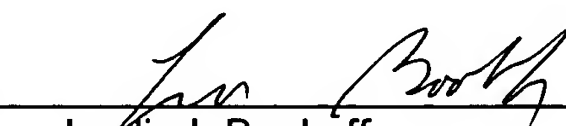
Should the Examiner disagree with the Applicants' comments on the statements of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve such disagreement.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, with the exception of the Issue and Publication fees, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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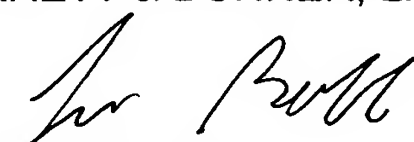
NOTICE OF ASSIGNEE NAME CHANGE

Effective January 1, 2005, the assignee of this case, Scimed Life Systems, Inc.,
has changed its name to Boston Scientific Scimed, Inc. Applicant requests that this
Notice be placed in the file.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 3, 2005

By: 

Leslie I. Bookoff
Reg. No. 38,084